

John Harrison Building  
22 Centre Street (on north side)  
New Bedford  
Bristol County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-686

HABS  
MASS,  
3-NEBED,  
20-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

## JOHN HARRISON BUILDING

Address: 23 Centre Street (on north side), New Bedford,  
Bristol County, Massachusetts

Present Owner  
and Occupant: P. Kaller and Son, 23 Centre Street, New Bedford,  
Massachusetts

Present Use: Warehouse for wholesale beef provisions

Brief Statement  
of Significance: A representative commercial building of the early  
nineteenth century

HABS  
MASS,  
3-NEBED,  
20-

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: "Built by John Harrison about 1820 after there had been a disastrous fire in the locality. It was later owned by George Howland, William Rotch, Jr., Edward C. Jones, B. R. Almy, and in 1906 the Almy heirs sold it to James L. Humphrey, Jr., for an Ice Plant." "Old Dartmouth," pp. 338-339/  
  
Now owned by P. Kaller & Son.
2. Notes on alterations and additions: A Photograph of 1907 or earlier "Old Dartmouth"/ shows four openings on the ground floor front; a doorway was the second from the left, and the other three were windows. Since then a large doorway has been opened, and one window bricked up from observation/.
3. Important old views and references: Worth, Palmer and Austin, "Old Dartmouth," a manuscript in the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Massachusetts. This consists of photographs of houses and public buildings in New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet, Dartmouth and Westport; photographs by Fred W. Palmer, introduction and notes by Henry B. Worth, "done into shape" by Emma C. Austin; dated September, 1907.

Insurance Maps of New Bedford, Massachusetts (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1888). This indicates that the whole building was then occupied by offices.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A simple representative commercial building of the early nineteenth century, somewhat altered.

MASS  
3-NEED

2. Condition of fabric: Apparently sound.

- B. Technical Description of Exterior: This is a four-story masonry building with wooden floor and roof framing. It faces south, with a brick facade; the other walls are of granite rubble. The front has four bays; openings have sandstone lintels and sills. In the other walls, openings have granite lintels. The roof is gabled, with gables on east and west ends.
- C. Site: This building faces a narrow street, which retains old cobblestone paving and stone sidewalks, and is surrounded by adjoining lower buildings on the other three sides.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service  
September 1961